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MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the

Report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1971

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Melford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Services for the year, 1971.

The population increased by 90 persons. The birth rate was still above the national average although 20 fewer babies were born than in 1970. 211 people died during the year, an increase of 29 over 1970, although the death rate was still slightly below the national average. There were 8 infant deaths, 6 of these in the first week of life. There were 16 deaths from lung cancer, 5 of them in women, which follows the trend of an increasing number of female deaths from this cause. Cancers of all kinds, accounted for 26.5% of the deaths, and deaths from vascular diseases including coronary thrombosis and strokes, for 48.3% the majority of deaths occurring in the age groups 65 years and over.

I am grateful to the Chairman of the Council and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their courtesy to me.

I am grateful also to the Clerk of the Council, the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff and other Council officials for their help to me during the year.

Your obedient servant,

Edward Kenner

Medical Officer of Health

April 1973

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(May 1971 - May 1972)

Chairman: Mrs. P.M. Hetherington, M.A.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. C.R. Kingston

Mrs. G.M.S. Ardley
Mr. W.H. Bett
Mrs. M.A. Bridges
Mrs. S.M. Byham
Mrs. M.V. Caschere
Mr. D.G.D. Dawson, M.A.
Mr. T.C. Douglas
Mr. H.F.A. Engleheart, M.A.
Revd. C.R.V. Herbert
Mr. G.J.C. Ince
Mr. J.P. Ince
Mr. J.A. Newton
Mr. R.W. Partridge
Mr. J. Piper
Mr. R.C. Smith
Mr. H.V. Wheeler

Commander F.L. Whitehouse, O.B.E.,R.N. (Ret'd), is the Chairman of the Melford Rural District Council

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year.)

Area of the District		47,270 acres.
Rateable Value (Year ending March, 1972)	£616,198	(£573,147)
Sum represented by a New Penny Rate (1p.)	£5,727	(£5,366)
Number of inhabited houses	7,170	(7,020)
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	20,080	(19,990)

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	346 (366)	195 (188)	151 (178)
Illegitimate	17 (17)	12 (10)	5 (7)
Total:	363 (383)	207 (198)	156 (185)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) (Area Comparability Factor = 0.99)	17.9	(19.0)
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales	16.0	(16.0)
Illigitimate birth rate	5%	(4%)

Stillbirths:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	7 (1)	3 (-)	4 (1)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total:	7 (1)	3 (-)	4 (1)

Total Live and Stillbirths:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	353 (367)	198 (189)	155 (178)
Illegitimate	17 (13)	12 (10)	5 (7)
Total:	370 (384)	210 (199)	160 (185)

Deaths:

Total	Male	Female
211 (182)	91 (82)	120 (100)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) (Area Comparability Factor = 1.09)	11.4 (9.9)
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	11.6 (11.7)

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion Nil (Nil)

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths Nil (Nil)

Infant Mortality Number of deaths of infants under one year of age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	8 (6)	6 (5)	2 (1)
Illegitimate	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
Total:	8 (8)	6 (5)	2 (3)

Death rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 22.0 (21.0)

(b) Infant Mortality rate England and Wales 18.0 (18.0)

Neo-Natal Mortality Number of deaths of infants under four weeks of age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6 (6)	5 (5)	1 (1)
Illegitimate	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
Total:	6 (8)	5 (5)	1 (3)

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Number of infants under one week of age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6 (5)	5 (4)	1 (1)
Illegitimate	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
Total:	6 (7)	5 (4)	1 (3)

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined, per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 35.0 (21.0)

The causes of 5 of the infant deaths were as follows:-

Sex	Age	Cause of death
M	9 hours	Cerebral haemorrhage
M	15 hours	Respiratory failure
M	23 hours	Primary atalectasis
M	3 days	Multiple congenital abnormalities
F	8 months	Acute laryngo-tracheitis

3 other infant deaths were untraced in my records.

The causes of 5 of the Stillbirths were as follows:-

Sex	Age	Cause of death
M	39 weeks	Accidental haemorrhage
F	39 weeks	Foetal encephalocoel
F	39 weeks	Intra-uterine asphyxia
M	40 weeks	Cord round neck
M	42 weeks	Foetal hypoxia, placental insufficiency

2 other stillbirths were untraced in my records.

CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes	Total	Male	Female
	211	91	120
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1	1
Late effects of respiratory tuberculosis	1	1	-
Other tuberculosis	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	8	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	11	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	-	3
Leukaemia	4	2	2
Other malignant neoplasms	11	8	3
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes mellitus	3	1	2
Other endocrine, etc. diseases	1	1	-
Anaemias	1	-	1
Mental disorders	1	-	1
Multiple sclerosis	2	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	2	-	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	-	1
Hypertensive disease	6	-	6
Ischaemic heart disease	41	20	21
Other forms of heart disease	8	1	7
Cerebrovascular disease	39	11	28
Other disease of circulatory system	7	4	3
Pneumonia	5	2	3
Bronchitis and emphysema	10	6	4
Asthma	1	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Peptic ulcer	1	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	-	2
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1	1

Causes of death (continued)

	Total	Male	Female
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	5	1	4
Congenital anomalies	1	1	-
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	4	3	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	1	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	1	1

Age Incidence of deaths from certain causes

		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Cancer of breast	M										
	F						1	1		1	1
Cancer of lung	M							1	1	4	5
	F								3		2
All cancers, including cancer of lung, and bronchitus	M			1		1		2	5	11	11
	F			1			2	3	4	3	11
Coronary thrombosis	M						1		5	8	6
	F							1	3	5	12
Cerebral thrombosis (stroke)	M						1	1		2	7
	F								1	5	22
Vascular diseases, combined, including heart diseases and strokes	M						2	1	6	13	14
	F							2	4	19	41
Accidents	M				1						
	F									1	1

SECTION B

1. Public Health Staff:

Dr. E. Kinnear, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.,
Part-time Medical Officer of Health who
also serves other districts.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert.S.I.B.,M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector
I.C. Hazell, F.I.A.S.,Cert.S.I.B.,M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector, whole-time
M. Crisp, Cert.P.H.I.E.B.,M.A.P.H.I.,M.R.S.H.

Water Pollution Control Officer and Manager, whole-time
A.B. Worth, H.N.C. (Chem.)

Building Control Officer, whole-time
P.D. Cutmore, M.I.B.C.O.,Licentiate I.A.A.S.

2. Ambulance Facilities:

The West Suffolk County Council is responsible for the ambulance service. There is an Ambulance Station in Sudbury.

3. Nursing in the Home:

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. Child Welfare Centres:

The West Suffolk County Council provides four Child Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Great Cornard, Glemsford and Nayland. Mothers from Melford District also use the Health Clinic in Sudbury.

5. Chiropody Services:

Chiropody Services for elderly persons are arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. A domicillary service is available for those unable to reach a clinic.

6. Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratory Services, Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich, under its Medical Director Dr. P.K. Fraser, has provided bacteriological reports on water samples and other materials and advised on epidemiological matters.

Chemical analyses of water samples are preformed by the Council's analysts at the Analytical Laboratory, Haywoods Heath, Sussex.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47:

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No proceedings were taken under Section 47, during 1971, in Melford Rural District Council.

SECTION C

REPORT OF MR. J.A.E. BURROWS

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

SEWERAGE SCHEMES:

By the end of this year the long-awaited sewerage scheme for Leavenheath was ready to start, together with the considerable extension and modernisation of the Nayland Disposal Works to which Leavenheath sewage is to be pumped for treatment.

The industrial dispute at the opening of the year high-lighted the need for standby emergency sources of power. A programme to provide this has commenced with the provision of diesel powered pumps at No.1 Pumphouse, Long Melford and Heathway, Great Waldingfield.

Despite the removal of all old sludge from the Cornard Works and the ability to desludge the tanks more often because of the Sludge Press House at Long Melford, smells still emanated from the Works. Experiments were carried out with deodorisers with a view to providing automatic deodorising next year.

The provision of full two-press facilities at the Melford Press House and the authorisation of Phase II extensions to the Melford Disposal Works will enable this plant to deal with the extra load caused by new development and, it is hoped, with the effluent problems of the nearby chemical works. In the autumn part of this effluent was received for a trial period but rapid deterioration of the final effluent from the Treatment Works proved that at the present time this is not feasible.

The provision of sewerage for Assington was deferred until a joint scheme with Little Cornard can be put in hand. For financial reasons a scheme for the sewering of Waldingfield Road, Chilton was postponed until next year.

Present programming envisages that the Glemsford Works will be extended in 1972/73, Assington/Little Cornard together with Bridge Street and Somerton in 1973/74. Plans were also visualised for the provision of greater capacity pumps and rising main, and replacement of part of the existing sewer to cope with the proposed enlargement of the village of Acton.

SEWER CONNECTIONS:

The following table shows the number of sewer connections made during the year, and the overall position at the end of the year.

As some connections may be made without our knowledge this table should not be taken too literally.

(Sewer Connection Table on next page)

SEWER CONNECTION TABLE

PARISH	New Connections 1971	No. of properties on line of sewer	Number Connected
Nayland	15	412	395
Stoke-by-Nayland	3	254	224
Long Melford	24	1092	1029
Acton	4	207	202
Bures St. Mary	-	195	187
Great Waldingfield	16	277	261
Chilton (Chilton Corner)	-	26	25
Little Waldingfield	1	112	107
Newton	3	129	109
Little Cornard	-	20	18
Great Cornard (To Cornard Works)	11	2006	1983
Chilton (Industrial Site) (To Cornard Works)	2	10	10
Great Cornard (To Sudbury Works)	-	120	111
Chilton (To Sudbury Works)	-	22	22
Glemsford	15	693	645 *
Hartest	2	132	105
Stanstead	2	99	84
Boxted	-	25	24
Alpheton	6	58	39
Lawshall	8	215	156
Shimpling	3	93	68
TOTALS:	110	6197	5799

* Includes 29 with only sink connections, no W.C.

EMPTYING OF PRIVATE CESSPOOLS:

The following table gives the number of emptyings in parish order, showing an increase of 87 emptyings on the previous year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING TABLE 1971

Acton	47
Assington	46
Alpheton	8
Boxted	5
Bures	30
Chilton	16
Great Cornard	17
Little Cornard	66
Glemsford	33
Hartest	12
Lawshall	8
Leavenheath	192
Long Melford	16
Nayland-with-Wissington	18
Newton	13
Shimpling	5
Somerton	3
Stoke-by-Nayland	22
Great Waldingfield	19
	576

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967:

56 Cars or car bodies were removed, 8 of them after service of statutory notices.

MEAT INSPECTION:

There are three retail butchers and one wholesale/retail butcher with licensed slaughterhouses. One of the retail butchers did not kill throughout the year.

		CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP LAMBS	PIGS	GOATS
TOTAL Slaughtered		2779	30	4358	5316	27
TOTAL Inspected		2779	30	4358	5316	27
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	Whole carcases condemned	2	1	3	59	-
	Number of carcases part of which was condemned	372	1	9	728	-
	% Affected	13.38	3.33	0.20	13.69	-
Tuberculosis Only	Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
	Number of carcases part of which was condemned	-	-	-	167	-
	% Affected	-	-	-	3.14	-
Cysticercosis only	Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
	Number of carcases part of which was condemned	19	-	-	-	-
	% Affected	0.69	-	-	-	-

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS:

The following were condemned:

Legs of lamb (Bone taint)	9 lbs
Tinned Preserved Veal (Decomposition)	36 lbs
Tinned Ham (Decomposition)	16 lbs
Tinned Grapefruit (Decomposition)	162½ lbs
Chickens (Various conditions)	51½ lbs
Leg of lamb (Abscesses)	6 lbs
Tinned Ham (Decomposition)	16 lbs
Tinned Tomatoes (Decomposition)	17 lbs

In addition a large quantity of frozen foods of various types was condemned following freezer breakdowns.

FOOD HYGIENE:

232 Visits were made to general food premises and 11 vehicles were inspected.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

66 Visits to registered premises were made. No serious contraventions were observed. One accident was reported involving strain whilst unloading a vehicle. No action was taken. Employers co-operated satisfactorily in securing compliance with the Act following informal notices.

Class	Premises Registered during year	Total No. Premises Registered	Number of first inspections	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	-	13	-	95
Retail Shops	2	43	3	138
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	1	-	9
Catering Establishments and Canteens	-	11	-	88
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	2	68	3	330

RODENT CONTROL:

No change in the routine inspection and treatment work carried out by the Rodent Operator. The desctruction of wasps nests was continued and during the summer of 1971 59 wasps nests were destroyed.

HOUSING:

117 Private dwellings were completed during the year distributed throughout the District as follows:-

Glemsford	27
Long Melford	26
Great Waldingfield	16
Nayland with Wissington	14
Great Cornard	10
Lawshall	5
Acton	3
Alpheton	3
Leavenheath	2
Newton	2
Shimpling	2
Stoke-by-Nayland	2
Boxted	1
Bures	1
Chilton	1
Hartest	1
Stanstead	1

558 Proposals under the Town and Country Planning Acts and/or the Building Regulations were received.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

Standard Grants:

35 Dwellings were improved with the help of Standard Grants. The total cost of the works done was £19,099 of which the owners recovered £8,124 in Grants. The average cost per dwelling was £546 with Grant Aid of £232.

Discretionary Grants:

26 Dwellings were improved with the help of Discretionary Grants. The total approved expenses was £51,369 ranging from £146 to £3,700 per house. The maximum permissible grants were given in all cases, totalling £19,218.

One application involving the "conversion" of a farm building was refused.

HOUSING ACT, 1969:

One undertaking not to re-let was accepted.

One Closing Order made in 1968 was determined.

26 Applications for Qualification Certificates for houses with all amenities were received. Of these only 12 were approved.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1961, Section 25:

One house in a dangerous condition due to neglect and vandalism was boarded up, and fenced off from the public highway.

NUISANCES:

All complaints were dealt with by informal action.

GIPSY ENCAMPMENT - GREAT WALDINGFIELD/ACTON:

The growth and continuance of an unofficial gipsy encampment on the boundaries of these parishes caused considerable public concern, culminating in a joint meeting on the site of all parties concerned including representatives of County, District, and Parish Councils. As a result it was subsequently decided that this could not be regarded as a suitable place for a permanent camp.

SECTION D

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases

	Total	Male	Female
Scarlet Fever	19 (55)	12 (33)	7 (22)
Whooping Cough	18 (14)	10 (5)	8 (9)
Measles	302 (103)	145 (47)	157 (56)
Food Poisoning	7 (1)	4 (1)	3 (-)
Infectious Jaundice	2 (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	- (4)	- (2)	- (2)
Tuberculosis, other	1 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)
Totals:	349 (177)	173 (88)	176 (89)

There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis in 1971.

A mother and 5 year old son had food poisoning and Salmonella agona was isolated at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich. The source of the infection was not found but no further cases were reported.

A married couple returned from a holiday abroad suffering from gastrointestinal upset, notified by the General Practitioner. Stool samples were obtained by the Public Health Inspector and sent to the Ipswich Public Health Laboratory. Salmonella anatum was isolated. No further cases were reported. Investigations of the three other cases of food-poisoning were negative.

The outbreak of measles which had begun in June 1970 continued during 1971. It reached a peak of 228 cases during the April to June quarter of 1971, then subsided rapidly, with only 20 cases in the 3rd quarter and only 4 cases in the 4th quarter of the year.

Swabs were taken from all the family contacts of a woman who was admitted to hospital suffering from meningococcal meningitis. These were examined and found negative.

No connection was found between the two sporadic cases of infectious hepatitis.

SECTION E

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

I. Inspections for the purpose of Provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	63	48	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	36	-	-
TOTAL:	63	84	-	-

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found = 1

III. Part VIII - OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work	Number
Making wearing apparel, etc.	3
Making firework casings	14
Other	1
TOTAL:	18